

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The claims have been amended to eliminate multiple dependencies, to reflect changes made in an Article 34 Amendment in the international counterpart, and to use more conventional U.S. claim format.

An early examination of Claims 1-7 and 9 is earnestly solicited.

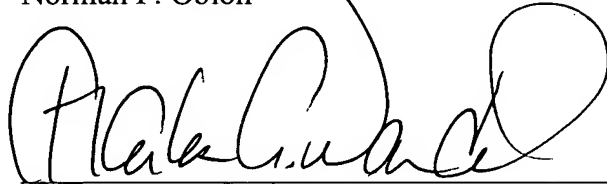
Respectfully submitted,

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Charles A. Wendel", is written over a horizontal line.

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NFO:CAW\rlc